

August 23, 2023



FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

Brent Bailey

Nation's Electric Generation Fleet Becoming More Diverse

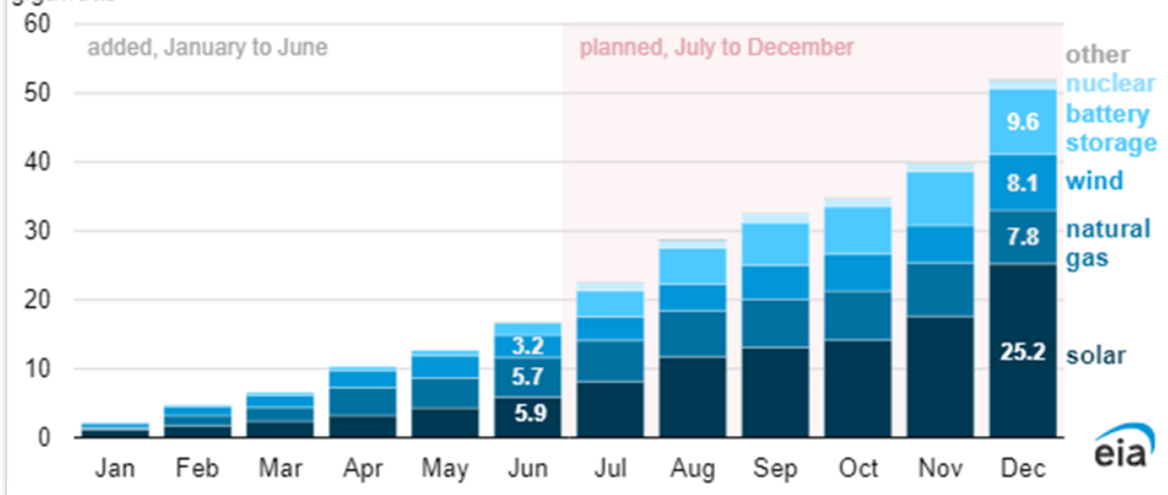
The nation's installed electric generation capacity is currently around 1,300,000 megawatts (MW). Approximately 30% of that total capacity is located in the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council region. (Generation capacity refers to the maximum potential power output of an electricity generation facility and is measured in MW. Generation is the actual power output of a facility and is measured in megawatt-hours (MWh)).

The largest fuel source is natural gas, accounting for just under 44% of all generation capacity. Coal, with a share of 17%, represents the second largest source of generation capacity. Wind accounts for over 11%, nuclear is at 8%, hydro is just under 8% and solar is at 6.5%. A wide range of fuel sources - from fuel oil to biomass solids - comprises the balance of generation capacity at about 5%. Added together, wind, hydro, nuclear and solar account for more than one-third of current generation capacity.

In terms of actual electricity generation for 2023, natural gas is expected to generate 42% of the U.S.' electricity this year. The other large sources are projected to be nuclear (19%), coal (16%), wind (11%), hydro (6%) and solar (4%). The utilization of coal as an energy resource in the U.S. continues to decline due to a variety of regulatory and economic pressures.

For 2023, developers plan to bring an additional 52,000 MW of generation capacity online. Nearly half of that new capacity will be solar at 25,200 MW. Solar will be the leading source of new generation capacity installed for the second year in a row. Battery energy storage will account for 9,600 MW of new capacity, 8,100 MW from wind and 7,800 MW from natural gas. The Vogtle Unit 3 nuclear reactor in Georgia came online in July adding 1,100 MW of new nuclear generation capacity.

Cumulative utility-scale electric generating capacity additions, United States (2023)
gigawatts





Continued...

Generation capacity additions (27,755 MW) outpaced the total capacity retired (16,121 MW) in 2022. That appears to be the case in 2023 as well. While 52,000 MW of generation capacity is expected to be added in 2023, 15,300 MW of capacity is expected to be retired in 2023. Coal-fired power plants will account for 9,800 MW of the retirements by the end of the year, followed by natural gas at 4,700 MW. More than 41,000 MW in coal capacity is anticipated to be retired through 2027, which represents nearly a fifth of the current generating capacity of all coal-fired facilities.

While the nation is slowly but surely transitioning to a less carbon emission intensive generation fleet, there are concerns that the shift in generation capacity and the rapid additions of intermittent generation resources to the grid could create reliability concerns. Potential solutions include increasing the utilization of battery energy storage systems, adding fast-start, dispatchable generation, expanding transmission infrastructure, aggregating distributed energy resources, extending the useful life of baseload generation or a combination of all of the above. Regardless, all of these pathways come with costs, planning horizons and system impacts that will need careful consideration and analysis by regulators to ensure that consumers benefit, reliability does not suffer, and provides opportunities for economic growth.



BROADBAND NEWS

Federal Funding Continues to Support Broadband Expansion in Mississippi

Two Mississippi companies, Mound Bayou Telephone & Communications Inc. and TecInfo Communications LLC will be receiving a combined total of \$19,358,006 to deploy high-speed internet access to rural residents, including in the Central District counties of Bolivar and Washington. The award was made as part of the fourth funding round of the ReConnect Program. Recipients of ReConnect Program funding must provide speeds of at least 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload. Congratulations to these companies as they deploy fiber to the premises of a combined 2,262 people, 53 businesses, 90 farms and 7 educational facilities.

The MS Public Utilities Staff has been reviewing and the MS Public Service Commission has been certifying the annual reports of telecommunication companies who wish to receive financial support from the Universal Service Fund (USF) for the expansion of broadband service. Each company must be certified as an eligible telecommunication carrier (ETCs) to receive funds. The MPSC certifies eligibility of ETCs in Mississippi and submits certification to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by October 1 of each year. Several companies are receiving funding to build out 25/3 Mbps service.

The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) was established by the FCC to bring 25/3 Mbps service to rural homes and businesses that lack it. Awardees receive funding over a 10 year period. There are 23 companies that have been designated as RDOF ETCs by the MS Public Service Commission. For 2024, Mississippi ETCs are poised to receive over \$68 million in combined USF and RDOF funding to support the buildout and operation of highspeed fiber-optic broadband across the state. In addition, another \$87 million is set to come to the state to support the expansion of 5G performance standards by adding capacity and antenna upgrades at wireless facilities across the state.



Highlights from the August 17, 2023, Docket Meeting

The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on August 17, 2023, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following [agenda](#) items:



- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) approving **Mississippi Power Company's** Regulatory Tax Recovery Clause Assessments Beginning October 2023. **Mississippi Power Company** filed its statement of gross revenues from intrastate operations for the preceding year (2022) with the **Mississippi Department of Revenue** and was assessed a total tax of \$1,739,815, which is \$56,604 more than its 2021 assessment. The rate impact of the Regulatory Tax Recovery results in no change for residential customers and an increase of \$0.01 for small commercial/industrial customers and \$16.04 for large commercial/industrial customers. Based upon this assessment, the Regulatory Tax Recovery rates to be applied are as follows: \$0.29 per month for residential; \$1.15 per month for small commercial/industrial; and \$359.31 per month for large commercial/industrial.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) approving **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Joint Stipulation with the **Public Utilities Staff** and its Application for Approval of EDGE Resources to Support Reliability, Fuel Diversity, and Economic Development; and for Other Relief. The Application sought the approval of three power purchase agreements (PPA) and related cost recovery: the PPA between **Entergy Mississippi** and **Hinds Solar, LLC**; the PPA between **Entergy Mississippi** and **Greer Solar, LLC**; and the PPA between **Entergy Mississippi** and **Wildwood Solar, LLC**. **Entergy Mississippi** provided testimony with the Application detailing how the EDGE Resources would help to reliably fill a capacity need consistent with the Company's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan while diversifying **Entergy Mississippi's** fuel mix - offering an important hedge against volatile gas prices - and enhancing economic development.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Repealing Practice Rule 28, The Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act. The repeal of Practice Rule 28 has become necessary due to the recent passage of House Bill 1225 by the Mississippi Legislature, which transferred enforcement of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act from the **Commission** to the **Mississippi Attorney General's Office**.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Substituting Hearing Examiner in regard to the **Commission** Investigation Into the Adequate, Reliable, and Economical Electric Service in and Around the City Of Itta Bena.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an [Order](#) Adopting Scheduling Order in regard to the Petition of **Southern Cross Transmission LLC** for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the Proposed Southern Cross Transmission Project.
- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Referring the Petition of **Entergy Mississippi, LLC**, for a CPCN to Continue to Make Improvements to and Modernize Its Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure in **Grenada County** to a hearing examiner, for hearing, report and recommendation of an appropriate Order, or any other action necessary.



If you were unable to attend the Open Docket Meeting and missed the live stream, a recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).



Last Week at the MPSC

- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC (EML)** [Submitted](#) its [June 2023 Storm Report](#) in accordance with the **Commission's** July 11 [Order](#) for EML to file a comprehensive report to address EML's storm preparation, restoration efforts, technological issues, and challenges with customer communication. From June 10, 2023 to June 25, 2023, an unprecedented series of destructive storms moved across the state resulting in 221 severe thunderstorm warnings, 14 tornado warnings, 7 flash flood warnings and 21 severe thunderstorm or tornado watches. The June 2023 storms caused EML to repair or replace more poles, spans of wire, transformers and crossarms than all of 2022. Although more than 2,000 personnel were secured to assist in the restoration and fully execute EML's response plan, EML also recognizes that its Automated Distribution Management System software platform experienced complications and that EML did not meet customer expectations for storm communications. The Commission will be conducting a thorough review of EML's June 2023 Storm Report and supporting [Exhibits A - F](#) and requesting additional information, if necessary.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued Orders certifying the following as Eligible Telecommunication Carriers for purposes of continued receipt and utilization of high-cost Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support for the 2024 support year: [TecInfo Communications, LLC](#); [Belzoni Cable, LLC](#) (see pictured right; signing of the Orders on Thursday, August 17)
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) and another [Order](#) Granting a Request to Intervene for two individuals regarding the Application of **West Madison Utility District** for a Supplemental CPCN Authorizing it to Operate and Maintain a Water System in a Specified Area in **Madison County**.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued Orders Granting Motions to Withdraw Intervenor status for [Tronox LLC](#) and an [Individual](#) in regard to the Petition by **Southern Cross Transmission LLC** for a CPCN for the Proposed Southern Cross Transmission Project.
- ✎ **Tempo Telecom, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to provide Lifeline service to qualifying consumers.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** filed its [Petition](#) for Authorization to Exceed \$5,000,000 Spend in Supplemental Growth Rider Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and for Approval of a Special Contract. In the fiscal years 2023 and 2024, **Atmos** expects to spend approximately \$6.8 million on a project in the Columbus area to provide service to **Steel Dynamics, Inc.** Because these investments may cause the fiscal year 2024 budget for supplemental growth projects to exceed \$5 million, **Atmos** is filing to request specific **Commission** approval to move forward with these projects.
- ✎ **Atmos Energy Corporation** also filed its Annual [Energy Delivery Plan](#) as required by Rule 29 of the Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure which requires gas utilities to report to the **Commission** annually on their efforts to improve energy delivery through modernization of existing infrastructure, improvements to lower energy delivery costs (e.g., by expanding access to supply alternatives, energy efficiency programs or relieving congestion in the delivery system), and/or through expansion of energy delivery to additional customers.
- ✎ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) Granting Requests to Intervene for two individuals in regard to the Petition by **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** for a CPCN to Continue to Make Improvements to And Modernize Its Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure in **Grenada County**.



Meeting with Entergy MS to discuss key findings in their June 2023 Storm Report, August 22



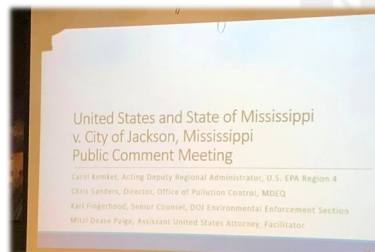


CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



We enjoyed a fun night last Thursday at the 2023 Sportsman's Banquet of Southern Outdoors Unlimited in Pearl at the Clyde Muse Center. Their mission is to introduce individuals with disabilities to the outdoors. They raise funds for a great cause and through the

Outdoors Ability Foundation, a track chair was provided to a well deserving child!



On Monday, I attended the Public Comment session held by the DOJ, EPA and MDEQ to

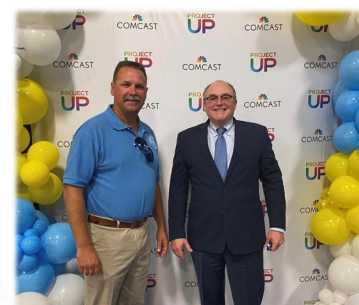
receive public input on the Proposed Order to put the operation of the City of Jackson's sewer system under the control of a Interim Third-Party Manager. Many Jacksonians expressed their frustration with the deterioration of the sewer infrastructure and their support of a new way to manage the system. There are over 200 identified sewer failures in the city that is impacting residential quality of life, business development and ecological health. During the public comment portion of the meeting, I voiced my concerns of any business as usual approach to managing the system and advocated for a new way to address the problems plaguing the city's sewer system. The Proposed Order presents a viable path forward.



I had the honor of joining teachers, students, national, state and local leaders at the Bolton and Edwards MS Digital Equity Rally yesterday at Bolton-Edwards Elementary Middle School. Comcast and the Town of Bolton Development Corporation celebrated the completion of Comcast's broadband expansion in Bolton and Edwards. Tuesday's announcement means faster internet speeds and more advanced technology for over 1,700 residents and businesses. Every K-8 student at Bolton-Edwards will be receiving a laptop, courtesy of Comcast and the Town of Bolton Development Corporation. We appreciate the invitation from Comcast to be a part of the celebrations and enjoyed seeing all of the excitement and smiles on the students faces. (see next page for additional photos)



FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRENT BAILEY CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



YOU ARE INVITED!

JOIN US FOR A
**ROLLING FORK
APPRECIATION LUNCH!**

You are invited to join Atmos Energy for a Chick-fil-A lunch to show appreciation to the Rolling Fork tornado survivors and the community.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24
11 AM - 1 PM**

Charles Russell Park in Rolling Fork
Hwy 61 between Maple and Rosenwald St.
Rolling Fork, MS 39159



Your natural gas company



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **50** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	38
Telecommunications	7
Water/Sewer	3
Natural Gas	2



YOU'RE INVITED

Wednesday, August 23rd | 5:00 – 7:00 PM CT

The Hesdorffer
159 W Peace St, Canton, MS 39046

EDP Renewables invites you to join us for our **Ragsdale Solar Park Construction Kickoff!** Along with Signal Energy Constructors and Beta Engineering, subject matter experts will be available to answer questions, discuss the development and construction process, and celebrate our growing relationships with the Madison County communities.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

- Refreshments catered by Two Rivers Restaurant
- Construction updates & job opportunities
- One-on-one conversations with the development team
- Free Ragsdale-branded swag

Please RSVP to Grace Clark
Grace.Clark@edp.com | 713.205.1006

www.edpr.com/north-america



SAVE THE DATES:

NOTICE OF HEARING:

Utica Loop Reliability Project

Tuesday, August 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Claiborne County Board of Supervisors Board Room, Port Gibson, MS

[\(Link to Notice\)](#)

SEPTEMBER DOCKET MEETING

Thursday, September 7 at 10 am in the MPSC Hearing Room [\(Link to Notice\)](#)